

" We are shaped and fashioned by what we love "

AURICLE



No. 9 - Monday, December 1st, 1975 - A Medical Society Publication - University of Toronto

O.M.A.

The Student Section of the O.M.A. sponsored a very informative meeting on the 'realities of medical incomes' on Tues. November 25th. The gathering was well-attended, especially, as one might expect, with students from the later years. This is not the place to regurgitate the facts and figures produced at the meeting by the two speakers: Peter Fraser, and Dr. Joan Charboneau. One point, however, emerged very clearly from the evening's discussion, namely that whether we as future medical professionals like it or not, an overwhelming portion of our medical careers will be affected by various governmental and political considerations. Undoubtedly, the very word 'politics' evokes a certain degree of contempt from the vast majority of medical students. It is very comforting to imagine that we are "above politics", and that if we study well, pass all our exams, be understanding and compassionate to our patients, that "things will take care of themselves". That is a myth. What happens in legislative chambers is affecting all facets of our profession. Money issues tend to attract the headlines, but far more important (from our point of view as soon-to-be interns and residents) are issues such as the availability of positions in certain geographic areas, and evolving standards of licensure requirements. These topics are not a part of the Faculty's curriculum. There is no final examination in this subject, but it is definitely one of which we all must have at least a working knowledge.

Read the newspapers. Pick up a copy of the O.M.A. Review or the C.M.A. Journal. Join the O.M.A.-C.M.A. Be aware. The effort is minimal, the reward is potentially great. Otherwise, one might find himself studying Parasitology and Infectious Diseases at Moosonee General, and asking "What happened????"

- the Associate Editor



MS. The following article from the October issue of Ms. Magazine was submitted to the editor by a second-year student. The original title was: "Madison Avenue Pushers", written by Judith Wilson.

Is Madison Avenue the worst thing to happen to psychiatry since Freud? Three North Carolina physicians have discovered that most psychiatrists feel that the preponderance of women in drug ad illustrations misrepresents the needs of men and women for the treatment of mental illness. In an article in the November '74 issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry, Drs. Christine McRee, Billie F. Corder, and Thomas Haizlip call on drug companies to change their artwork to show both male and female patients in each illustration.

A random sample of 1973 issues of the Journal revealed pharmaceutical ads showing 64% of psychiatric patients as women. Similarly, a letter to the editor of Psychiatric News reported that 11 out of 14 drug ads in one issue featured women patients. These observations prompted Drs. McRee, Corder and Haizlip to survey 30 psychiatrists in a middle-sized Southern city about their reactions to women in drug ads. Twenty-three doctors responded - three female, and twenty male psychiatrists.

[cont'd]

Seventy-seven percent of the physicians reported, surprisingly, that while more women seek their advice, fewer women actually require psychiatric treatment. Although advertisers may feature female, rather than male, patients simply because they think women make more "attractive" illustrations, 45% of the doctors said that these ads do affect physicians' attitudes. One doctor wrote that the ads "tend to perpetuate general trends of thinking of women as weaker, more sick" and "might imprint male M.D.'s with the impression that mental illness and femaleness go together."

' Letters to the Editor ' Dept:

Having received considerable feed-back from the third-year class about my 'open letter' of two issues past, let me now assure all medical students that you are quite an interesting, diversified group, with some of you even being able to claim original, deep thinking. Am I therefore bailing out from my original position? No - for I always did feel the aforementioned. It's the facade I quarrel with. My first letter was aimed at diminishing the regrettable tendency of medical students to denigrate themselves and their fellows in conversation, by dwelling excessively on shop-talk and exams, the 'only' subjects of common interest. Hopefully, these seemingly condescending (for which, my apologies to all) letters may inspire some to escape from our self-inflicted confinement.

Richard Padgett 7T7



.. eclectics... by Ron Cyr

Out-foxing Smallpox: It is interesting that we still spend a relatively large amount of time studying a disease which has not been seen in Canada since 1962 and which, according to the W.H.O. will be eradicated, world-wide, in the very near future.

Although more than 15,000 case reports of smallpox had been received by mid-1975, this was 89% fewer than a year earlier. 80% of smallpox patients are in Bangladesh, which W.H.O. calls "the principle remaining stronghold of smallpox in the world". The two other countries still experiencing indigenous transmission are India, where there are 99% fewer cases reported this year than in 1974, and Ethiopia.(1)

1. Journal of the American Medical Association 233 (1975) p. 315

Post-Graduate Training: "I believe that if it is logical or reasonable for specialists to be trained for four or five years, a family doctor cannot be trained in less than two," the former president of the College of Family Physicians of Canada declared recently (2) ...

"We've lobbied licensure agencies to change the rules but they're not entirely convinced. They think things are O.K. as they are. Apparently they don't see much need to improve the standard of practice. The junior rotating internship was good enough in the sixties, and nothing has changed very much in their view... I believe unsupervised, solo practice is one of the poorest teachers ... I'm convinced that students seldom enlarge the scope of their practice much beyond the boundaries shown them in their post-graduate training."

2. Canadian Family Physician September 1975 p.37

MOVIE REVIEWS (1) "The Development of Bone", an instructional film produced in this Faculty, premiered on Wed. November 26th to an enthusiastic audience in Room 2172. Robert Weltman, a third year medical student, spent the last two summers painstakingly filming and editing this production, in collaboration with Dr. David Cormack of Histology. The film is skillfully animated and has a complete soundtrack and musical score - tracing the embryological development and growth of a typical long bone, from the cellular to the macroscopic level. This professional-looking piece of work ends with a poignant scene from real life, enhancing its appeal to the emotions as well as to the intellect... Congratulations on a fine job, Bob.

(2) "The Hiding Place" : (or 'Bury My Heart at Ravensbrück') Filmed on location in Holland and Britain last year, this movie is the chilling account of two Dutch women taken to a concentration camp for hiding Jewish fugitives in their home during the early forties. It is a new perspective on the Nazi nightmare: a gripping portrayal of courage, even when facing hopeless odds.

Time magazine calls it "a bold Christian indictment of anti-semitism". The tragedy is that it is forty years too late.

- Ed.